

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Namibia is a unitary republic with two tiers of local self government: 14 regional councils and 57 local councils. There are 4 different types of municipalities which entail different degrees of autonomy (city councils, municipal councils, towns, village councils). Regions are further divided into 121 constituencies; regional governors are appointed. Decentralization is mentioned in the 1990 Constitution, as are LRGs.<sup>1</sup>



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).<sup>2</sup>

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs have been embedded in the **Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5)** and the corresponding accelerating tool, the **Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) 2016-2020**. By fully aligning the National Development Plan with the SDGs, Namibia set out to achieve the following four broad objectives (inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth, capable and healthy human resources, sustainable environment and enhance resilience and good governance through effective institutions).

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

For national coordination, the pre-existing three-tier mechanism has been re-adopted. This consists of the **Development Partners Forum** at the highest level to provide coordination oversight; a multi-stakeholder **National Steering Committee** composed of senior officials from both government and development partners at implementation level to provide tracking of implementation; and lastly the coordination of all developments pertaining to SDGs, through the NDP5 vehicle, which rests with the **National Planning Commission (NPC)** as the Secretariat.

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The content of the 2018 VNR was extracted from local development planning instruments (inclusive but not limited to NDP5 and Harambee Prosperity Plan) which resulted from diverse stakeholder consultative processes championed at both the highest level and the technical and grass-roots levels through the NDP5 stakeholder consultations. For the VNR 2021, the main source was the NDP5 2018-2019 Annual Report, which was compiled using information submitted to the National Planning Commission by various coordinators of Focus Areas. Also, a series of meetings were hosted under the auspices of the NPC with Focus Areas, to review and discuss the content.

### 1.3 MONITORING

The responsibility for the collection of data for analysis and reporting thereof lies with the **Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)**. The monitoring of SDGs' progress is the principal responsibility of the National **Monitoring Evaluation Office** in collaboration with the UN Development System's Coordination Unit.

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

Awareness campaigns and consultations were conducted at the subnational level for the development of the Fifth National Development Plan - but there is no evidence of any LRG involvement in the coordination mechanisms. LRGs are not mentioned

1. Since 2010, the national government has increased its regional presence and appointed regional governors. In 2016, no functions have yet been devolved to regional councils and the decentralization policies do not match local government responsibilities to local resources. The country ratified the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development.

See: [https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI\\_2019\\_report\\_country\\_profiles\\_DEC2019\\_UPDATES.pdf](https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf)

2. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19880New\\_Version\\_Full\\_Voluntary\\_National\\_Review\\_2018\\_single\\_1\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19880New_Version_Full_Voluntary_National_Review_2018_single_1_Report.pdf) (2018); [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279462021\\_VNR\\_Report\\_Namibia.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/279462021_VNR_Report_Namibia.pdf) (2021)

among the stakeholders invited to participate in the 2018 VNR process. They didn't participate in the 2021 VNR process either.

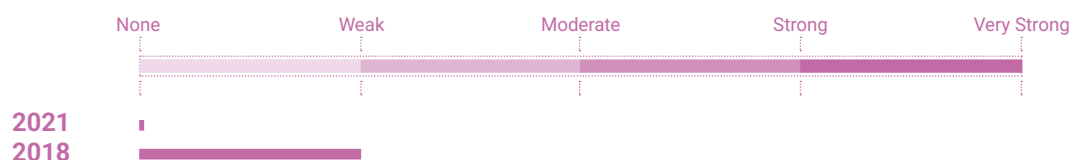
## 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

### ► In the VNR process



Comments: There was no participation, consultation or request for input in the drafting of the 2021 VNR (weaker involvement than in 2018) (GTF Survey 2021).

### ► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: No participation (same as before) (GTF Survey 2021).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

## 2.2 VNR REFERENCES

Almost no reference to LRGs in 2018 report, nor in 2021 VNR.

## 2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► Integrating informal transport systems, the city of **Windhoek**, together with the Ministry of Works and Transport and GIZ, developed the Sustainable Urban Transport Master Plan for Windhoek, which enables decision-makers to develop an affordable, accessible and efficient public and non-motorized transport system for the next 20 years, thus addressing the specific needs of the most disadvantaged urban populations.<sup>3</sup>

► **Walvis Bay** Municipal Council volunteered to be part of the pilot project Leaders in Local Government for Transparency and Integrity in Service Delivery in Africa, launched by UCLG Africa and Transparency International in 2017.<sup>4</sup>

► A bilateral agreement has been concluded between the Governments of Namibia and Germany, during September 2019, for the implementation of a new **Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development (ISUD) Project** focusing on the upgrading of informal settlements. The project is being implemented in partnership with GIZ and **5 partner Local Authorities** (technical support): **Windhoek Municipality, Rehoboth Town Council, Rundu Town Council, Helao Nafidi Town Council, and Opuwo Town Council**. The ultimate aim of the project is to improve the conditions in informal settlements in these areas, resulting in sustainably functioning neighbourhoods with households that have secure tenure, the right to erect permanent housing, and improved access to basic services. The project is expected to run from 2021 to 2023.

► Additionally, the government has strengthened viable local-based decentralised housing development support schemes such as the **Build Together Programme (BTP)**.

## 2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

## 2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Amongst other efforts, Namibia launched the **Development Finance Assessment (DFA) Report** in 2021, as part of the holistic approach on the financing frameworks in achieving Sustainable Development Goals, Vision 2030 and the National

3. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>  
4. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

Development Plans. Furthermore, in 2021, Namibia launched its first-ever autonomous tax administration agency, the **Namibia Revenue Authority (NAMRA)**, under its Ministry of Finance (MoF). The agency aims at improving the country's efficiency in revenue collection, infrastructure development, and adherence to taxation.

### 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** Regarding SDG 11, the government has enacted the Urban and Regional Planning Act in 2018, which provides for a single and uniform spatial planning framework, integrated spatial (urban and regional) planning, and development in the country. It has introduced more efficiency in land use planning and has combined the functions that were performed by two advisory bodies of the Namibia Planning Advisory Board and Townships Board into a single body, the Urban and Regional Planning Board, and decentralisation or transfer of some of the approval procedures to the regional and local government levels, thereby fast-tracking land and housing delivery.

#### 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Namibia lauds itself with regard to the global gender gap index rankings, being number 6 out of 156 countries. Further strides were made with regard to women representation being adopted by the ruling party, attributed as the “zebra-style” gender representation in parliament, which has seen the Namibian bicameral parliament having 48% of its members as women since the 2019 elections. Seats held by women in LRGs represent 14,3%.

#### 3.2 COVID 19

Namibia rolled out N\$8.1 billion COVID-19 stimulus packages to mitigate the impacts of unemployment on those who lost their jobs due to the pandemic and to help in the fight of the virus in general. Similar COVID-19 stimulus packages to the value of N\$22.1 million were rolled out by the Social Security Commission for wage subsidies and to assist the informal sector affected by the pandemic. The government spent N\$560 million on the special allowance, also known as the Emergency Income Grant, which benefitted 769,000 Namibians. There is no reference to initiatives for nor from the LRGs.

### 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>5</sup>

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		45.1 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		42.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		24 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		57.9 (2019)

5. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/nam>